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PATENT

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 09/631,247

Attorney Docket: DP-300332

Filing Date: 08/02/2000

Group Art Unit: 1764

Applicant: Gregory Thomas Roth et al.

Examiner: Doroshenk, Alexa A.

Title: LOW PROFILE, INTEGRATED CATALYTIC CONVERTER  
AND FLEX COUPLING

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**PROVISIONAL ELECTION**

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed June 17, 2004, imposing a Restriction Requirement between:

Group I, claims 1 and 2, directed to a coupling assembly; and

Group II, claims 3-27, directed to a catalytic converter/flexible coupling assembly.

First, Applicants call attention that the application as filed set forth 34 claims. Claims 28-34 were not acknowledged or treated in the Office Action. Applicants assume that the Restriction Requirement intended to include claims 28-34 in Group II, since claims 28-34 are dependent upon claim 24, which claim 24 is included in Group II.

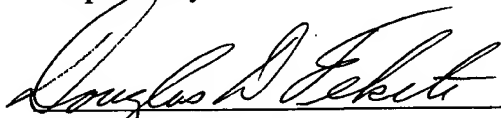
With this understanding, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group II, claims 3-34. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully traverse the requirement.

Group II includes claim 3 drawn to a catalytic converter/flexible coupling assembly. The Group I claims are drawn to a coupling assembly that is a feature of a preferred embodiment of Applicants' catalytic converter/flexible coupling assembly and recited in claims 4-6. A thorough examination of Applicants' catalytic converter/flexible coupling assembly should thus consider the coupling assembly. Therefore, efficiency, both on the part of Applicants, and also on the part of the Patent Office, mandates that, where the claims have common distinctive features such as here, all claims should be examined together.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn, and that all claims of Group I and Group II be considered in the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,



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